

Dongsheng He

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EDUCATION

Degree

2021-2025, PhD in Urban Planning and Design, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (HKU)

PhD thesis: A market-based value capture approach to providing volumetric urban design of transit-oriented development in China

Supervisors: Prof. Chris Webster and Dr. Guibo Sun

2021, MPhil in Architecture and Urban Studies, University of Cambridge, UK

Supervisor: Prof. Ying Jin

2020, B.Eng. in Urban and Rural Planning, Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU), China

Academic exchange

2025.1-2025.6, Visiting PhD student, Institute of Transportation Studies, Luskin School of Public Affairs, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), U.S

Faculty sponsors: Prof. Michael Manville and Prof. Adam Millard-Ball

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026.01-now, Research Fellow at the School of Geography, University of Leeds

Line manager: Prof. Nik Lomax

2025.10-2026.01, Postdoc Research Fellow at Department of Urban Planning and Design, The University of Hong Kong

Line manager: Prof. Chris Webster

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Research interest: Impacts of transport infrastructure intervention (e.g., metro system and greenway) on mobility, Longitudinal mobility impact of transport policy (e.g., work from home policy), built environment on daily behavior and health, and transit-oriented development (TOD) in high-density Asian cities

SELECTED RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Published referred journal articles

(note: * represents corresponding author)

Transport intervention and travel behaviors

He, D., An, Z., Hu, Y* (2026). How a new metro line influences traffic crashes: A natural experiment in China. *Transport Policy*, 188, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tranpol.2026.104115>

He, D., Sun, G*, De Vos, J., & Webster, C. (2022). The effects of metro interventions on physical activity and walking among older adults: A natural experiment in Hong Kong. *Health & Place*, 78, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2022.102939>

He, D., Lu, Y.*, Xie, B.*, & Helbich, M. (2021). Large-scale greenway intervention promotes walking behaviors: A natural experiment in China. *Transportation research part D: transport and environment*, 101, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trd.2021.103095>

Choe, E. Y., **He, D.**, & Sun, G. (2023). Trading-off transit and non-transit physical activity among older people: evidence from longitudinal accelerometer data of a natural experiment study. *Journal of Urban Health*, 100(2), 408-417. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-022-00709-4>

Built environment intervention, daily behaviour, and health outcomes

He, D., Lu, Y.*, Xie, B.*, & Helbich, M. (2022). How greenway exposure reduces body weight: a natural experiment in China. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 226, 104502. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2022.104502>

He, D., Miao, J., Lu, Y., Song, Y., Chen, L., & Liu, Y*. (2022). Urban greenery mitigates the negative effect of urban density on older adults' life satisfaction: Evidence from Shanghai, China. *Cities*, 124, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2022.103607>

Yang, H., **He, D.***, Lu, Y.*, Ren, C., & Huang, X. (2021). Disentangling residential self-selection from the influence of built environment characteristics on adiposity outcomes among undergraduate students in China. *Cities*, 113, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2021.103165>

Transit-oriented development in high-density cities

He, D., Sun, G* (2026). Measuring volumetric urban design: multi-level connectedness, compression, and functional mix in transit-oriented developments in Hong Kong, *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/2399808326142573>

He, D., Wang., J, & Sun, G* (2025). Ambiguity in state-owned land property rights increases transaction costs in China's transit-oriented development projects *Land Use Policy*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2025.107501>

He, D., Sun, G*, Li, L., & Webster, C. (2024). New metro and housing price and rent premiums: A natural experiment in China. *Urban Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00420980231208560>

Working papers

He, D., Manville*, M. Work from home, city-level travel behavior changes, and modal shift in the post-pandemic era (working paper)

Liu, Y., **He, D***, Theorizing transit value capture: A regional-historical comparison of institutionalization in East Asia (under review in *Environment and Planning A*)

He, D.*, Lomax, N., Manley, E., The causal effects of protected bike lane improvements on cycling behaviours: A quasi-experimental study in London, UK (in submission to *Transportation Research Part A*)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Module co-teacher and tutor at University of Leeds, GEOG5401M Analyzing Cities, Fall semester, 2026

Teaching assistant and tutorial lecturer at HKU, URBP7006 GIS and Smart Technology in Spatial Planning Development, Spring semester, 2023

Teaching assistant at HKU, CCGL9026 Think Global, Act Local: You, Hong Kong and the World, Spring semester, 2024

STUDENT SUPERVISION

PhD student co-supervision

2026-now

Bhagya Chintakula (University of Leeds)

Master's student supervision

2026 cohort

Yayuan Jiang (University of Leeds)

Xunuo Yang (University of Leeds)

FUNDING

Additional Funding from the Research Grant Council for Supporting HKPFS Awardees in 2022 40,000 HKD

HONORS, FELLOWSHIP, & AWARDS

2025	Winner of UK Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Tony Crook Award for Early Career Researcher
2025	International Association China Planning (IACP) Travel Award
2024	HKU Foundation First Year Excellent PhD Award
2023	Finalist of UK Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Early Career Researcher Award
2021	Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPF)
2021	HKU Presidential Fellowship
2019	1st Prize in National Urban Design Contest of Urban Planning Major
2018	3rd Prize in National Urban Transportation Innovation Contest of Urban Planning Major
2018	Excellent Work in National Social Practice Research Contest of Urban Planning Major
2019	Second-class Excellent Student Scholarship, SYSU
2018	Third-class Excellent Student Scholarship, SYSU
2019	Academic Innovation Scholarship, SYSU
2019	Excellent Student Scholarship, School of Geography and Planning, SYSU

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Invited Talk

“From association to causality: Causal effects of urban transport infrastructure intervention in China based on natural experiment approach”, Institute of Transportation Studies at HKU, September 2025

“A market-based value capture approach to providing urban design of transit-oriented development in China”, Institute of Transportation Studies FED Talk, Los Angeles, California, April 2025

“From association to causality: Causal effects of urban transport infrastructure intervention in China based on natural experiment approach”, City plus online forum talk, April 2025

Referred Conference Participation

The causal effects of protected bike lane improvements on cycling behaviours: A quasi-experimental study in London, UK, International Geographical Union (IGU) Themed Conference on The health and sustainability of left-behind places and distressed neighbourhoods: Advances through applied geography, Uppsala, Sweden, September 2026

Measuring volumetric urban design: multi-level connectedness, compression, and functional mix in transit-oriented developments in Hong Kong, 34th GISRUK Annual Conference, Birmingham, UK, April 2026

Measuring volumetric urban design: multi-level connectedness, compression, and functional mix in transit-oriented developments in Hong Kong, 19th International Association China Planning (IACP), Xiamen, China, July 2025

How a new metro line influences traffic crashes: A natural experiment in China, 2025 Pacific Southwest Region UTC Annual Congress, Berkeley, US, March 2025

New metro and housing price and rent premiums: A natural experiment in China, 18th International Association China Planning (IACP), Hangzhou, China, July 2024

How land property rights issues lead to high transaction costs in Rail plus Property development of TOD projects in China, 18th Planning, Law, and Property Right Association (PLPR), Munich, Germany, March 2024

New metro and housing price and rent premiums: A natural experiment in China, HKU-USI Inaugural Conference, Hong Kong, China, Jan 2024

The effects of metro interventions on physical activity and walking among older adults: A natural experiment in Hong Kong, 17th International Association China Planning (IACP), Tianjin, China, July 2023

New metro and housing price and rent premiums: A natural experiment in China, 17th Planning, Law, and Property Right Association (PLPR), Ann Arbor, US, May 2023

How greenway exposure reduces body weight: a natural experiment in China 15th International Association China Planning (IACP) (online) 2021

Workshop participation

PhD workshop of 18th Planning, Law, and Property Right Association (PLPR) Annual Conference

PhD workshop of 17th Planning, Law, and Property Right Association (PLPR) Annual Conference

Seminar organisation and coordination

“Transport and Wellbeing” by Prof. Jonas De Vos from UCL, HKU NURSS seminar (online), November 2022
“A Transaction-Cost Theory of Development Management” by Dr. Sina Shahab from Cardiff University, HKU NURSS seminar (online), June 2024

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Academic journal referee

Lancet Healthy Longevity, Sustainable Cities and Society, Transportation research part D: Transport and environment, Transportation, Annals of American Association of Geography, Building and Environment, Landscape and Urban Planning, Cities, Health & Place, Habitat International, Transportation, Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, Journal of Transport & Health, BMC Public Health, Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science, Travel Behavior and Society, Journal of Urban Planning and Development, BMC Geriatrics, Annals of the American Association of Geographers, Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Transportation Research Part A

Professional affiliation

Member of World Society for Transport and Land Use Research (WSTLUR), 2025-

Member of Planning, Law, and Property Right Association (PLPR) (<https://plpr-association.org/2024/04/02/meet-our-members/>), 2023-

Member of International Association China Planning (IACP), 2023-

Member of International Society for Urban Informatics, 2022-

REFeree

Dr. Guibo Sun (guibo.sun@manchester.ac.uk) - Lecturer in planning at The University of Manchester

Prof. Chris Webster (cwebster@hku.hk) - Chair Professor in urban planning at the University of Hong Kong

Prof. Ying Jin (yj242.cam.ac.uk) - Professor in urban modelling at the University of Cambridge